

MHawaii MARINE

VOLUME 37, NUMBER 6

THOMAS JEFFERSON AWARD WINNING METRO FORMAT NEWSPAPER

FEBRUARY 9, 2007



Patrol
A5



Wind
B1



Basketball
C1



Cpl. Luke Blom

Iraqi Police from Haditha detain a suspected insurgent after an Iraqi Police-led raid on a small village outside Zariah Jan. 23. During the raid, three insurgents were killed and five were detained. Two Iraqi Policemen were also killed in the fighting, marking the first Haditha IPs killed in the line of duty in more than six months, according to Lt. Col. Muhada Mahzir, Haditha IP deputy commander.

2 Iraqi Police, 3 insurgents killed in raid in Iraq's western Al Anbar

Cpl. Luke Blom

2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment

ZARIAH, Iraq — In an Iraqi Police-led raid on a small cluster of houses outside the village of Zariah, three insurgents were killed and five were detained Jan. 23.

Two Iraqi Policemen were also killed in the fighting; marking the first of Haditha's IPs killed in the line of duty in more than six months, according to Lt. Col. Muhada Mahzir, Haditha IP deputy commander.

A group of Marines from the Hawaii-based 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine

Regiment, accompanied the IPs on the operation. The Marines were on hand primarily to supervise the raid and assess how well the IPs employed their tactics.

The Marines from 2/3 are responsible for the security of the Haditha Triad region, a region in western Al Anbar Province that sits on the banks of the Euphrates River and consists of the cities of Haditha, Haqlaniyah and Barwanah.

The village of Zariah sits on the banks of Lake Qadisiyah, roughly 20 kilometers north of the triad and is home to less than 1,000 Iraqis. The village was suspected to be an insurgent safe haven where anti-Iraqi forces would retreat to

after attacking Iraqi Security Forces and Coalition Forces in the Triad.

"The IPs got (intelligence) that terrorists would move from Zariah down to the triad to conduct attacks on ISF and Coalition Forces and then move back up to Zariah to hide out," said Maj. Eric E. Glassie.

The terrorists who use Zariah as a hideout are thought to be largely foreign fighters from Saudi Arabia, Iran, Syria and Afghanistan, according to Mahzir.

The raid was conceived, planned and executed almost solely by the Haditha

See RAID, A-6

Marines, city leadership discuss Haditha



Cpl. Luke Blom

The commanding officer of the Hawaii-based 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Lt. Col. James Donnellan, who is currently headquartered in Haditha, speaks with community leaders about the future and the security of their city Jan. 25. Donnellan and his 2/3 Marines have been deployed to Iraq since September 2006 and are in the region to train the Iraqi Police and military and provide safety and security to the region.

Cpl. Luke Blom

2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment

HADITHA, Iraq — The commanding officer of the Hawaii-based 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment headquartered in Haditha met with top Iraqi Police officials and community leaders in a town hall meeting to discuss the future of this Euphrates River city, Jan. 25.

The meeting was open for any topic of discussion and gave the Haditha community leaders a chance to air concerns and ask questions concerning Iraq's national government and Haditha's local security.

Much of the meeting was focused on the local ramifications of President George W. Bush's new plan for the future of coalition forces throughout Iraq. In the president's plan, 4,000 more Marines will be sent to Al Anbar Province.

"Our troops will have a well-defined mission; to help Iraqis clear and secure neighborhoods, to help them protect the local population, and to help ensure that the Iraqi Forces left behind are capable of providing security," said the president in a speech from the White House, Jan. 10.

See HADITHA, A-6

Commandant wants every Marine to the fight

Sgt. Ethan E. Rocke

Marine Corps Base Camp Butler

CAMP FOSTER, OKINAWA, Japan — Marine officials are working to identify the approximately 33,000 Marines who have not been tapped for service in Iraq or Afghanistan and get them to deployable units, a III Marine Expeditionary Force official said recently.

The effort was initiated after Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James Conway put out an all-Marine message announcing his intent to get "every Marine to the fight."

"As our Corps postures for the 'Long War,' and in order to help meet the challenges of frequent deployments, I want our Corps leadership to initiate policies to

ensure all Marines, first termers and career Marines alike, are provided the ability to deploy to a combat zone," Conway said in ALMAR 002/07.

The ALMAR calls for Marines who haven't deployed to be re-assigned "as feasible," and authorizes "increased time-on-station waivers" to accomplish that.

Some Marines on Okinawa and those scheduled to come here in the future could be affected by the section that specifically addresses the III MEF assignment policy, calling for it to be modified "as required."

Lieutenant Colonel J. W. Senter III, the deputy assistant chief of staff for III MEF manpower, said it is still not certain exactly how the policy will be modified.

See ROTATE, A-6

Remembering the journey



Christine Cabalo

Merrie Han, office automation clerk, Marine Corps Community Services, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, smiles as she assembles an exhibit for National African American History Month at the Base Library. The multi-panel exhibit, on display throughout the month, features maps and diagrams of the African migration to America.

NEWS BRIEFS

Marine Corps Base Hawaii Tax Center

The center is open now thru April 17 for those who would like to have their taxes done by the professionals. The center will be open for appointments and walk-ins Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The center is located on the second floor of Building 279. Call 257-4829 for directions and information.

If you are coming to the center to have your taxes done, bring:

- W2 Forms
- Bank account number and bank’s routing number
- Copy of last year's tax return
- All other tax forms (1099s, etc.)

KOSC Annual Art Auction

All Hands are invited to the KOSC Annual Art Auction Feb. 24 from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Officers’ Club aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. The auction will begin with an art preview and pupus at 6 p.m. with the auction beginning at 7 p.m. For more information and tickets, contact Sherry at k-bayartauction@hotmail.com.

2007 Chief Doris Brewster Scholarship

The Hickam African-American Heritage Association is proud to announce the acceptance of applications for the 2007 Chief Doris Brewster Scholarship. This scholarship is open to all high school seniors who are dependents of active duty or retired military personnel who meet the minimum requirements to graduate from a high school in Hawaii.

Further information concerning AAHA and recurring activities may be directed to Senior Master Sgt. Darlene Johnson at 448-2209 ext. 251.

Control Your Pet or Lose Privileges

There has been a recent spike in pet-related complaints concerning dog bites. Base Order 5500.15B, Chap. 4, clearly states: "Persons walking dogs in public must have positive physical control of their dogs," and housing handbooks clearly state: "If your pet is leashed outdoors, the leash must be less than 20 feet long, and the animal may not move outside your yard."

If a dog owner does not comply with the Base Order, the tenant may be subject to administrative action from the Game Warden or the Base Inspector.

Please keep control of your dog. Be a courteous neighbor by keeping a tight leash on your dog or keep it within the confines of your yard.

If you have questions about pet regulations, please refer to the Family Housing handbook or contact your area housing inspector. Additionally, the Game Warden Office may be of further assistance and can be reached at 257-1821.

Hawaii Marine Accepts Letters

Hawaii Marine invites its readers to e-mail its editor at editor@hawaiimarine.com with their comments and letters.

All submissions will be edited for clarity and length. Comments must be signed with a full name and a telephone number must be provided.

Hawaii Marine also accepts news briefs containing relevant information pertaining to Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

Important Phone Numbers:

On-Base Emergencies	911
Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Business Management Hotline	257-3188
Pothole & Streetlight Repair	257-2380
Base Information	449-7110
MCBH Duty Chaplain	257-7700
DEERS	257-2077

HAWAII MARINE

www.mcbh.usmc.mil

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FAX: 257-2511, PHONE: 257-8840

Marine, Sailor killed in Iraq

News Release

PAO

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII, Kaneohe Bay — Gunnery Sergeant Terry J. Elliott, 34, of Middleton, Tenn., and Seaman Matthew G. Conte, 22, of Mogadore, Ohio, died Feb. 1 of wounds received while conducting combat operations against enemy forces in Al Anbar province, Iraq.

Elliott, a platoon sergeant, and Conte, a hospital corpsman, were assigned to 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary

Force, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

Elliott joined the Marine Corps June 1992 and reported to Hawaii July 2004, while Conte joined the Navy January 2004 and reported to Hawaii November 2004. Both were deployed to Afghanistan with 2/3 from May 2005 to January and with the unit to Iraq in September.

Elliott’s awards include the Purple Heart, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (three awards), Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, Good Conduct Medal (four awards), National Defense

Service Medal (two awards), Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment ribbon (four awards), Marine Corps Recruiting ribbon, United Nations Medal, and North American Treaty Organization Medal.

Conte’s awards include the Purple Heart, Combat Action ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Sea Service Deployment ribbon (two awards), and Sharpshooter ribbon.

Base hosts 2007 lecture series

News Release

PAO

This year’s first lectre in the Pacific War Memorial Lecture Series will be held at the Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay Base Theater Feb. 15 at 6 p.m. followed by a no-host reception at 7:30 p.m. at The Officers’ Club.

The lecture is open to enlisted service members, E-4 and above, officers, spouses and civilian Marines.

Deputy Commander, Marine Corps Base Hawaii Col. Mark A. Dungan, will present the welcoming remarks, and guest speaker, Medal of Honor recipient, retired Marine Corps Colonel Wesley Lee Fox will conduct a lecture and question and answer period designed to “break the ice” and encourage interaction.

Book order forms will be available during the lecture for , “The Marine Rifleman: Forty-three Years in the Corps,” and his soon-to-be published book entitled, “Courage and Fear.”

News Release

PAO

Wesley Lee Fox was born near Herndon, Va., Sept. 30, 1931. He enlisted in the Marine Corps Aug. 4, 1950, and served with the 1st Marine Division in the Korean War.

Following a number of peacetime assignments, he was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in 1966 and served as an Infantry Battalion Advisor with the Vietnamese Marines.

On his second tour in Vietnam and while commander of Company A, 1st Battalion, 9th Marines, he was involved in an action that resulted in his award of the Medal of Honor.

His last active duty assignment was as commanding officer, Officer Candidate School, Quantico, Va., where he retired from active duty Sept. 1, 1993.

Fox is a graduate of the Marine Corps Amphibious Warfare School, the Command and Staff College, and the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle, Pa.

He graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business at Western State College, Gunnison, Colo., in June 1977.

His personal decorations include the Medal of Honor, Legion of Merit with star, Bronze Star, with combat V, Purple Heart (four awards), Meritorious Service Medal,



FOX

Navy Commendation Medal with combat V (two awards), Joint Service Commendation, and Combat Action Ribbon (two awards).

Upon retirement from the Marine Corps, Fox served as the deputy commandant of the Corps of Cadets at Virginia Tech from Aug. 15, 1993, until Aug. 1, 2001.

His memoirs, “Marine Rifleman: Forty-three Years in the Corps” is published by Brassey’s Inc.

He is married to the former Dotti Lou Bossinger of Mattawana, Pa., and they have three daughters: Dixie Lee, Amy Lu and Nicole Lyn.

Military Officers Association of America Scholarship offered

Press Release

Military Officers Association of America

Military Officers Association of America officially opened its 2007 Base/Post Scholarship program Nov. 15, 2006, and is offering individual \$1,000 grants to 25 dependents of active duty personnel worldwide.

To be eligible, a student must be younger than 24, working on a first undergraduate degree, and a dependent child of an active duty service person – enlisted, warrant officer, or officer – in the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. This includes members of the drilling Reserves and National Guard.

Grant recipients will be randomly selected from among applicants within each of the seven services. No GPA, SAT, or essays will be needed for the Base/Post application. Membership in MOAA is not a requirement.

Application is via the MOAA Web site: http://www.moaa.org. Choose “Services,” then “Educational Assistance” to find the online application. Follow the easy instructions for the multipurpose scholarship application. Deadline for submission is noon Eastern Standard Time March 1.

Semifinalists will be notified by e-mail and the self-check on the Web site by mid-March. Winners will be notified in May.

The MOAA is the nation’s leading association for military officers, with nearly 390,000 members. Membership is open to active duty officers and warrant officers, members of the Reserves and National Guard, and former or retired officers and warrant officers and surviving spouses.

Correction

The photo caption for the lead story in last week's issue incorrectly identified the helicopters in the lead photograph as three CH-53D Sea Stallions from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362. However, only one of the helicopters is a CH-53D from HMH-362, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. The other two helicopters are CH-53Es from HMH-466, "Wolfpack," based at the Marine Corps Air Station in Miramar, Calif.



Sgt. Andrew Chrissman

Weekend weather outlook

Today



Day — Scattered showers. Partly cloudy, with a high near 76. Northeast wind around 11 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Night — Scattered showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 64. East wind around 9 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

High — 76

Low — 64

Saturday



Day — Scattered showers. Partly cloudy, with a high near 75. East wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50%.

Night — Scattered showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 66. East wind around 11 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50%.

High — 75

Low — 66

Sunday



Day — Scattered showers. Partly cloudy, with a high near 77. East wind around 14 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

Night — Scattered showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 66. East wind around 13 mph, with gusts as high as 18 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

High — 77

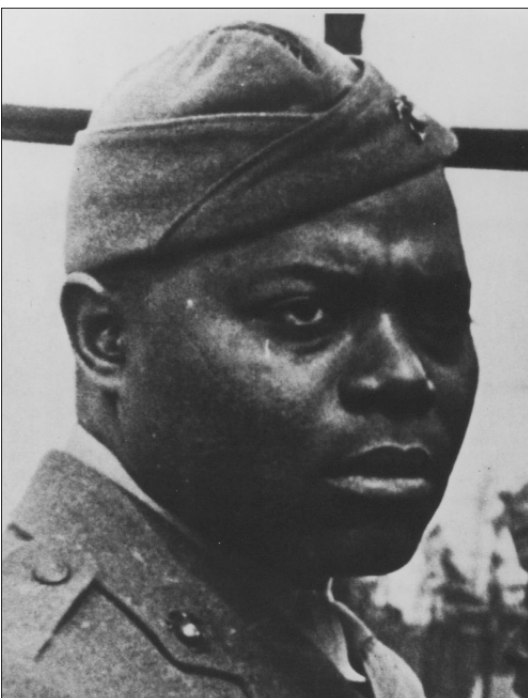
Low — 66



JAMES ANDERSON JR.



DORIS MILLER



GILBERT H. JOHNSON



FRANK E. SUBLETT

African American History Month kicks off at K-Bay

Christine Cabalo
Photojournalist

Celebrations of National African American History Month are underway around Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. Since 1926, the government has commissioned February for honoring the black experience and remembering their cultural heritage.

At the Base Library, displays showcasing notable figures such as Martin Luther King Jr. can be found in the new media section and near its circulation desk. Featured in each library exhibit, this year's Department of Defense's theme is "From Slavery to Freedom: The Story of Africans in the Americas."

The Hawaii Committee for the Humanities provided the library with one of the displays, which includes information about African migration to the Western Hemisphere. The multiple-panel exhibit is strategically placed in an area library users

regularly frequent, according to Merri Fernandez, library technician, Marine Corps Community Services.

"We always have positive feedback about our displays," she said. "Internet users who are on the computer or anyone studying in the area can take a few moments to look through it and learn about black history."

Fernandez recalled that a visiting Canadian couple last year was especially excited about seeing the library's Martin Luther King Jr. exhibit. The library technician said the display included some photographs they had never seen before, and she said she felt great about sharing a part of history with others.

Throughout the month, the Base Library is sponsoring weekly cultural readings Tuesdays from 6 to 7 p.m. Staff Sgt. George McGinn III, equal opportunity representative, 3rd Marine Regiment, will be leading the readings at the new media section and holding discussion groups afterward. Passages from several books written by black

authors or about black history will be read aloud and will be up for audience commentary.

"I'm glad to do it on my own time," said McGinn. "It's important to remember black history, including the struggles of people like Rosa Parks. She made so many sacrifices for the rights of everyone and stood her ground for her belief."

The library isn't the only place on base to learn about black history, according to McGinn. The Base Theater will be showing movies in recognition of the contribution of black service members in the military. Slated to play are "A Soldier's Story" and "The Tuskegee Airmen," a movie about the Army Air Corps program that trained black pilots and maintenance technicians to work with combat aircraft. Films are scheduled at 7 p.m. to begin at the theater.

Dozens of films by black artists can be rented for \$1 at Mega Video, at Mokapu Mall on base. Ali Khan, store manger, said he and his staff offer discounted movies for

all of the base's heritage observations, and renters have an extensive collection to choose from.

Two special events are also planned for the month, highlighting the recognition of black achievements. Third Marine Regiment will sponsor an African American History Month Luncheon scheduled for Feb. 16 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Anderson Hall. During the luncheon, Sgt. Maj. Evans McBride, U.S. Marine Forces, Pacific will preside as guest speaker. "Laugh Out Loud!" a potluck event, will be presented at the Base Theater Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. and feature stand-up comedy. Both events are meant to educate people about black history, said McGinn.

"I've spoken with some people who weren't even aware there was an Africian American History Month," he said. "Some people may think it's just another observed history month, but it's important to learn about other cultures and how the struggle for rights is everyone's struggle."

Famous African American Sailors and Marines

According to the American Community Survey, in 2005 more than two million military veterans in the United States were black. The survey states that blacks are the largest minority group in the service, and there are many who are known for their accomplishments. Some Marines and Sailors most notable for their achievements are listed below:

John "Keto" Martin, Continental Marines (later U.S. Marine Corps)

Martin is the first recorded black Marine who was recruited in April 1776, according to the National Park Service Web site on black heritage. Serving during the American Revolutionary War, Martin joined the Corps without permission from his Delaware slave owner. Aboard Continental brig Reprisal, Martin aided in capturing five British merchantmen before his death a year later.

Robert Blake, U.S. Navy

In 1864, Blake was the first black Sailor to receive the Medal of Honor. He was aboard the gunboat USS Marblehead during the Civil War. Blake, an escaped slave,

was one of many black service members protected by Union forces during their service. He was awarded the honor for continuing with his duties under fire until the enemy abandoned its position, according to the Naval Historical Center Web site.

James Anderson Jr., U.S. Marine Corps

Anderson was the first black Marine to receive the Medal of Honor. He received the award posthumously in 1968 for his service in Vietnam. The rifleman blocked the grenade blast resulting in his death, but shielded other Marines from a larger explosion. The dining facility at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay was named after the Medal of Honor recipient.

Gilbert H. "Hashmark" Johnson, U.S. Marine Corps

As one of the first black Marines trained as a drill instructor, Johnson was stationed at the all-black Montford Point facility at Camp Lejeune, N.C. Joining the Corps during World War II, he led 25 combat patrols of black Marines where previously they were exempt. The

Montford Point facility was renamed in his honor in 1974, and is now called Camp Gilbert H. Johnson.

Doris Miller, U.S. Navy

Awarded the Navy Cross for valor, Miller was the first black Sailor to receive the honor. He was aboard the battleship USS West Virginia during the 1941 Japanese attacks on Pearl Harbor. Miller received the cross for moving his captain away from enemy bombing and operating a machine gun until ordered to leave the bridge. In the 2001 film "Pearl Harbor," actor Cuba Gooding Jr. portrayed the Navy Cross recipient.

Frank Ellis Sublett, U.S. Navy

Sublett was one of the first black commissioned officers in the U.S. Navy. In 1944, he and 12 other black Sailors formed the nicknamed, "Golden Thirteen." During his service, Sublett was assigned to the Naval Local Defense Forces in the 12th Naval District, San Francisco, Calif. He served with the Service Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet and the Naval Operating Force, Eniwetok Island, Marshall Islands.

2007 African American History Month Events

Mega Video at the Mokapu Mall offers movie that highlight African American culture, struggles and artists. Rentals are \$1. For more information, call 254-7560.

Cultural readings focused on black heritage Tuesdays at 6 p.m at the Base Library. Reading will be passages from biographies of Harriet Tubman, Martin Luther King Jr., and others. The audience is invited to discuss their opinions with the group after each reading. For more information, call 254-7624.

Base Theater presents movies depicting the professional artistic ability of African American artists. Titles scheduled to play include: "The Tuskegee Airmen," and "A Soldier's Story." Presentations begin at 7 p.m. For more information, call 254-7642.

Anderson Hall Dining Facility will feature "Gandhi-King-Ikeda: A Legacy of Building Peace." Walking tours with an audio presentation will be offered Wednesday and Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The facility will also host the African American History Month luncheon that highlights a traditional ethnic cuisine. All active duty, civilian personnel and family members are invited to attend Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Price for the meal is \$3.65. Sergeant Maj. McBride will be the guest speaker. For more information, call Staff Sgt. McGinn at 257-5190.

Passing of Pearl Harbor survivor recognized

Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree
Combat Correspondent

HONOLULU, Hawaii — Marines, family members and friends honored retired Col. John H. Earle, during a private memorial service Feb. 5 at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl Crater.

The service began at 11:30 a.m. with Marines marching toward the service area, followed by family members escorted by Col. Mark A. Dungan, deputy commander, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, and Col. Gregory A. Boyle, commanding officer, 3rd Marine Regiment.

Earle was one of the last surviving Marines, still living in Hawaii, who was assigned to the battleship USS Arizona during the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor.

According to Earle's oral history of the day's events, he reported for duty aboard Arizona Dec. 6, 1941. After conducting inventory on his Marines, he was told to go



Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree

A rifle detail, comprised of Marines assigned to 3rd Marine Regiment, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, fires a 21-gun salute in honor of retired Col. John H. Earle during his memorial service Feb. 5 at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl Crater. Earle was one of the last surviving Marines who was assigned to the Marine Detachment aboard the battleship USS Arizona when it was attacked Dec. 7, 1941.

home to Waikiki to see his wife.

The next day after hearing Pearl Harbor was under attack, Earle rushed back to his Marines, only to find the Arizona engulfed in smoke.

Earle proceeded to take a boat to Ford Island where a bomb shelter was located; there he found 12 surviving Marines from his detachment.

At his memorial service, Marines presented Earle's wife Barbara with an American

flag as a rifle detail fired a 21-gun salute in his honor, followed by Sgt. Bradley C. Erdman, trumpet player, U.S. Marine Forces, Pacific Band playing "Taps."

During his memorial service, Earle's daughter read a letter that he penned prior to his death in which he said they shouldn't mourn his death with tears but with laughs and talk with each other as if he were there.

Earle was 92 at the time of his death.

Spouses' luncheon



Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree

Spouses of Marines assigned to Supply Company, Combat Service Support Group 3, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, help themselves to food during a get together Jan. 30. The purpose of the get together was to kick off the unit's Key Volunteer Program. The spouses also discussed the possibilities of a spouses night out.

Individual augments critical to war on terror

News Release
Chief of Naval Operations Public Affairs

In a January visit to observe individual augmentee training at Camp McCrady, S.C., Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Mullen made it clear that IA deployments will continue and that they are critical to the Navy's efforts in the war on terror.

"I see this as a long-term commitment by the Navy," he said. "I'm anxious to pitch in as much as we possibly can, for the duration of this war. Not only can we do our share, but (we can) take as much stress off those who are deploying back-to-back – home one year, deployed one year and now are on their third or fourth deployment."

The Navy currently has more than 10,000 Sailors in IA duty assignments all over the world. Personnel officials estimate that nearly half the 4,300 Sailors serving in Iraq are IAs. Mullen said he does not expect those figures to change dramatically in the next year or so.

"Obviously, we can't predict the future with any certainty, but I don't see the need for Navy talent in the IA world going down

any time soon," he said.

The CNO has pushed to expand the Navy's contribution on the ground in the Central Command's area responsibility, stressing that the war on terror is a national fight – not just one for the Army and Marine Corps.

Sailors, he said, bring unique perspectives and skills to the effort. He was also quick to point out that IA duty can have a similar effect on Sailors, broadening their viewpoints and exposing them to new methods of warfighting.

"We have had thousands of Sailors go through this (IA duty), and I think it's going to cause the Navy to change how we look at the world," said Mullen. "I fundamentally believe that you can't stay 1,000 miles out to sea and watch the rest of the world go by."

Every two weeks, about 400 Sailors cycle through Camp McGrady where they are trained in more than 80 soldier tasks that include convoy operations, basic rifle marksmanship, urban operations, heavy weapons, land navigation and first aid.

"We are getting great training here," said Lt. Robb Knapp, who will work with the Iraqi Assistance Group. "I feel fully prepared for

when I deploy and any combat situation I may encounter."

The Navy's top leader described the positive attitude of IA Sailors he recently visited in Iraq and Afghanistan, saying they were proud to be serving and knew they were making a difference. He also pointed out ways the Navy is trying to improve the entire IA assignment process.

The recently-established Task Force Individual Augmentation, for example, has increased notification time for Sailors ordered to IA billets from under 30 days to a high of 80 days in December 2006. The notification window begins when a Sailor receives written orders of IA duty, and ends when that Sailor leaves the area of permanent duty station.

The Navy also announced late last year a series of new IA incentives. These initiatives include flexible advancement exams and award points toward advancement. The Navy will also pay for families of Sailors deployed on IA duty to move from their area of permanent duty station to an area of greater family support during the deployment. These initiatives are designed to ease the burden of the family and Sailor during the separation.

"This is very vital work our IA's are doing at an incredibly critical time in our nation's history, and I am committed to making sure the Navy gets it right when it comes to recognizing that fact," said Mullen.

For all this success, the CNO noted that there still exists some tension between the Navy, which wants to send its best people forward, and unit commanding officers, who desire to keep talent close at hand.

"They don't like to give up their best people. I understand that. I've been a (Commanding Officer)," he said. "But they need to know that the decision to support the IA commitment is coming right from me. It's that important, and I need their support. This has to be a team effort."

The CNO thanked the Sailors for their service as IA's and also expressed his gratitude for the sacrifices being made by their families. He said support for those families remains a top priority.

"In direct guidance from me, I have asked commands to have a support mechanism to ensure that families are supported," he said. "We want to make sure that we are doing as much as we can to support you."



Marines assigned to Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, patrol through the military operations in urban terrain facility at Schofield Barracks, Jan. 31. This was the third day of a four-day training evolution the Marines underwent at Schofield Barracks in preparation for a deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Lima Company conducts urban patrolling

**Story and Photos by
Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree**
Combat Correspondent

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii — Marines of Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, underwent an urban patrolling and house clearing exercise at Schofield Barracks Jan. 31 at the military operations in urban terrain facility.

The Lima Company Marines spent the week learning basic close-quarter combat, vehicle checks, patrolling and occupancy.

“Today is the dry run on actually clearing houses,” said 2nd Lt. William Over, platoon commander, 3rd Platoon. “We’re in the very beginning stages of training for Iraq, and this exercise is to focus particularly on fire teams.”

Each platoon was given a house to practice their clearing techniques, and the senior lance corporals and corporals who have experienced combat in Iraq are the ones who teach the new Marines the basics.

According to Over, approximately 80 percent of Lima Company is comprised of Marines who have just arrived from the School of Infantry, and they are training them with a “crawl, walk, run” pace.

“We’re out here trying to teach the junior Marines the basics,” said Lance Cpl. Calvin

Hill, team leader, and veteran of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. “So far they’re doing good. They’re eager to learn and are motivated to go to Iraq. They’re not ready to go yet, but with further training they will be. This is the first time that they are really covering this stuff.”

The instructors are testing their ability to handle training in a stressful environment by throwing their students different scenarios such as ambushes, improvised explosive devices, and a combination of the two.

The purpose for adding a lot of stress is to open the new Marines’ eyes and show them how bad a situation could get, according to Cpl. Jeffery Globis, platoon guide, 2nd Platoon.

“They’re listening to what we have to say and are eager to learn,” said the 23-year-old native of Winthrop, Ill. “They absorb the knowledge really fast, and the unit cohesion is coming together really nice, but they sometimes get tunnel vision and only concentrate on one thing. They need to realize that it’s a 360-degree environment. I can’t stress that enough.

“Yes, we do yell at them when we see that something that they are doing is wrong, but then we gather them all together and explain what happened, and they understand that. We’re not yelling just to be

mean but to teach them.”

Though the new Marines have more to learn before they deploy to Iraq, the Marines instructing them think that shouldn’t be a problem once the time to deploy

actually comes around.

“I think that they, with their (noncommissioned officers) and leadership, should be ready,” said Globis. “There should be no reason why they shouldn’t be ready.”



Private First Class Charles J. Donohoe, rifleman, takes cover behind a vehicle to provide cover fire for fellow Marines as they clear a house.

A Marine checks an opening for possible targets during an urban patrolling exercise at Schofield Barracks.



A fire team moves into a house to clear it during a training exercise Jan. 31.

HADITHA, from A-1

More than 20 Sheikhs and community leaders attended the meeting and commented on many issues ranging from the president’s new strategy, current vehicular bans inside the city, current and future city construction projects and what their role will be in Iraq’s national government.

“One gentleman stood up and pretty articulately identified the plight of the Sunni Arabs (who make up the vast majority of the population in this region),” said Lt. Col. James Donnellan, 2nd Battalion Commanding Officer.

The gentleman (who asked not to be identified) expressed that the Sunni Arabs are the minority and believe the central government is heavily influenced by Iranian- and Shiite-specific interests.

“All of this may very well be true, but what we can affect is the security here,” replied Donnellan.

While everyone who attended the meeting agreed the security of Haditha and the “Triad” region was paramount, there were no commitments to help strengthen the local

Iraqi Police force, according to Lt. Col. Muhada Mahzir, Haditha Iraqi Police deputy commander.

“They (Sheikhs) say, ‘Yes. You are right. We need security, and we need police that are from this area,’” said Donnellan. “Then we ask, ‘OK. How many men in your tribe are willing to put forward?’ That’s when the room gets really quiet, and everyone starts looking down at their feet.”

While the Haditha police force has seen more than 30 Haditha citizens volunteer for service in the past three weeks, which was seen as a milestone for the police force, there has not been a large group to volunteer yet, according to Maj. Eric E. Glassie, Police Training Team officer-in-charge.

When one Haditha community leader posed the question as to how long Coalition Forces would be in the area, Donnellan replied, “When I’m told the Haditha IP have enough well-trained and well-equipped IPs – but not a day before.”

Many also asked questions about when the current vehicular restrictions would be lifted. Other than trucks carrying food, water and essential supplies, vehicular traffic has been

restricted inside the city for six weeks. Citizens with special circumstances put in a request and are given temporary driving permits.

The restriction was implemented to limit the movement of the local insurgency. Coupled with increased troop levels and a dirt berm surrounding the region, violence has dropped from seven to 10 attacks per day to approximately five per week.

“How long do we need these restrictions to ensure the security of Haditha before your sons and tribe members start joining the IP?” asked Donnellan during the meeting. His question was met with silence.

The issue of local construction projects was also brought up. The 2/3 Marines and supporting units have been completing small projects since their arrival in this region four months ago, but local contractors have been paralyzed by a murder and intimidation campaign waged by the insurgents against anyone who cooperates with the Coalition, according to Donnellan.

“We’re (Coalition Forces) going to move forward regardless, but when will some of you step forward and make some brave and bold

steps forward that will move the city exponentially toward prosperity and peace?” asked Donnellan.

For years the contractors have been intimidated into not working with Coalition Forces, but recently some local business men have expressed that if peace continues to grow in this region, they will be more likely to take a risk and begin building city projects such as schools, hospitals and roads.

“We’re on the verge of something very good here,” said Donnellan. “We can bring in more Iraqi Police and Marines and just focus on security, or we can have some brave individuals step forward and help rebuild the city and make some serious progress.”

While there were no commitments from the Sheikhs to support the Iraqi Police or begin rebuilding the city, open dialogue between the community and Coalition is seen as a substantial step in it self, according Mahzir.

“Ninety-five percent of the people in Haditha are supportive of us and what we want for the future of this region,” said Mahzir. “They are the future of Haditha – not the terrorists.”

ROTATE, from A-1

"Until additional guidance by Manpower and Reserve Affairs is provided, a Marine's rotation tour date is still the primary determinant for assignment to Operation Iraqi Freedom rotational units," Senter said.

Currently, the III MEF policy states that all Marines assigned to Okinawa will be assigned to 24-month unaccompanied tours or 36-month accompanied tours. In some cases, exceptions are made to authorize one-year unaccompanied tours.

The 24/36-month policy for Okinawa is being reviewed at Headquarters Marine Corps to assess whether it can be modified to meet the Commandant's intent without disrupting operations within Okinawa units, Senter said.

That could mean early rotation dates would be authorized for Marines rotating from Okinawa to deploying units, but Senter said Headquarters Marine Corps has to address the issue of cost as well.

"Early (permanent change of station) orders will create a large bill to pay," he said.

There are many variables that make implementation of the policy slow-going initially, but Senter said Marines can expect to see several Marine administrative messages in the coming months that, in addition to the policy change, will address the overall OIF theater plus-up of troops.

Conway's intent is clearly stated in ALMAR 002/07.

"When they join our Corps, Marines expect to train, deploy and fight. That's who we are. That's what we do. And we must allow every Marine that opportunity."

RAID, from A-1

IP, demonstrating how far the young police force has come in recent months, according to Glassie, Police Training Team officer in charge and 38-year-old from Stafford, Va.

“They have come an awful long way in the last couple months, but there is still some progress they need to make,” said Glassie.

Since September 2006, the number of Shurta, the Arabic word for Police, on the local IP force has ballooned from 24 to more than 200. While most of the new Haditha IPs are from the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, more than 30 men from Haditha have volunteered for service in the past two weeks. These “home-grown” volunteers represent a monumental achievement for this community that has been gripped by violence for years, according to Glassie.

The outcome of the raid had an immediate effect on the IPs, according to Mahzir. On one hand, they saw the raid as a setback because of the loss of two comrades, but it was also seen as

a rallying point for the police force.

“Two of our brothers died in the raid, but that does not mean the operation was a failure,” said Mahzir. “The terrorists we killed and detained were very bad people.”

The long-term effect of the operation on the IPs will only be shown in time, according to Lt. Col. James Donnellan, commanding officer, 2/3.

“As this event recedes into their memory, they’ll refer to it as a day they killed three very bad guys and captured a few more,” said Donnellan. “In the long run, I think the sacrifice of their fellow Shurta will be put in perspective.”

In other news, Iraq’s Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki announced the arrests of more than 400 members of the Shiite militia Mahdi Army.

The arrests came on the heels of President George W. Bush’s announcement to increase troop levels in Iraq by approximately 20,000. In the same announcement Bush called for the Iraqi government to crack down on the Shiite militias in and around Baghdad.

Meeting of minds



Cpl. Luke Blom
Haditha police officials speak with community leaders while a translator interprets for Lt. Col. James Donnellan, commanding officer of the Hawaii-based 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, during a town hall meeting Jan. 25.